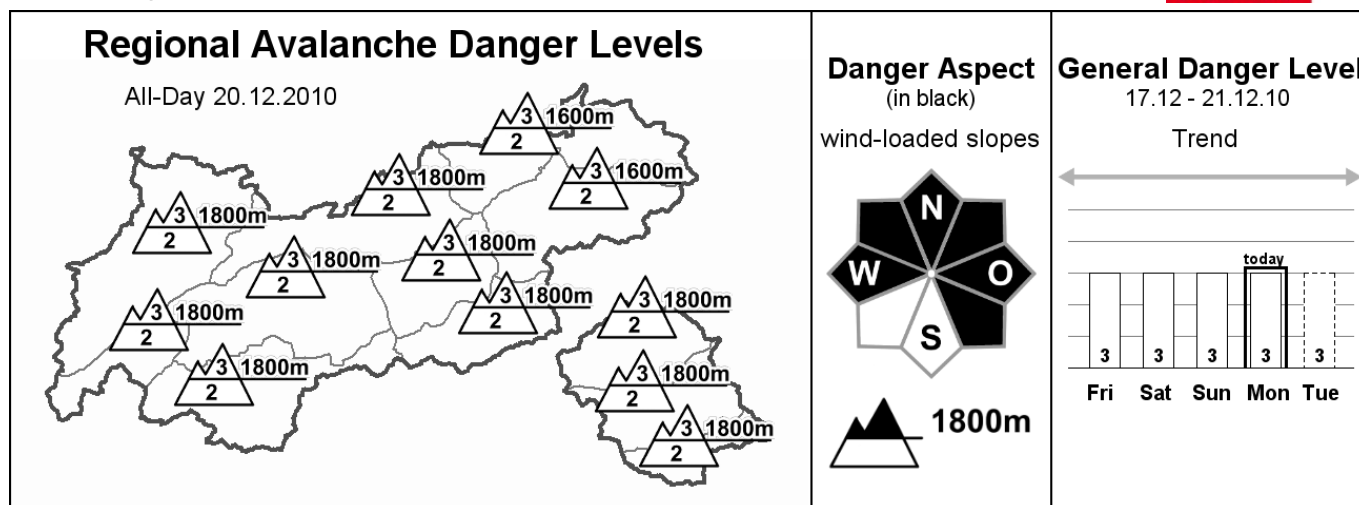


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 20.12.2010, at 07:30



**Strong to stormy southwesterly winds are continually shifting and re-depositing snowdrift**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is "considerable" widespread above approximately 1800 m. The major danger stems from continually newly formed snowdrift accumulations which are generally poorly bonded with the surface of the old snowpack and thus, can be easily triggered by even minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, particularly on west to north to southeast facing slopes. Transition areas from shallow to deep snow must also be assessed with great care. At low and intermediate altitudes, the danger is generally moderate. On steep, smooth, grass covered slopes, isolated naturally triggered full depth snowslides are possible.

### SNOW LAYERING

The strong to stormy southwesterly wind yesterday provided for ongoing transport of the predominantly loosely packed snow above the treeline, thus giving rise to far reaching snowdrift accumulations and continually shifting snowdrift masses. Due to the persistent winds, the snow depths are highly varied and irregular: windblown broad ridges and knolls are often immediately flanked by heavily drifted gullies and bowls. At low and intermediate altitudes, the rising temperatures have helped the snowpack to settle and consolidate somewhat.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: moist air masses are being delivered to the Alps on the back of a brisk, mild westerly air current today. Between Tuesday and Wednesday, a strong, extremely mild, southerly foehn wind scenario is expected to develop in the valleys. Mountain weather today: a storm strength wind will dominate on the northern rim of the Alps, but visibility and temperatures will create a quite acceptable day in the mountains. The freezing level will ascend towards 2000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong westerly winds at high altitudes, at the northernmost alpine rim the winds will be of storm velocity.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche hazards.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe